



**Economic and Social
Council**

Distr.
GENERAL

ECE/MP.PP/2008/2/Add.15
26 September 2008

Original: ENGLISH

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE
CONVENTION ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION,
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN DECISION-MAKING AND
ACCESS TO JUSTICE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

REPORT OF THE THIRD MEETING OF THE PARTIES

Addendum

DECISION III/7

FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

adopted at the third meeting of the Parties
held from 11 to 13 June 2008 in Riga

The Meeting of the Parties,

Recalling article 10, paragraph 3, of the Convention, which states that the Meeting of the Parties may, as necessary, consider establishing financial arrangements on a consensus basis,

Recalling also decisions I/13 and II/6, through which an interim voluntary scheme of contributions based on a system of shares, open to contributions from Parties, Signatories and other States having opted to participate in it, has been established and maintained,

Determined to ensure that the necessary resources are available for implementing the work programme,

Believing that, in order to achieve this, it is necessary to establish financial arrangements under the Convention based on the principles of a fair sharing of the burden, stable and predictable sources of funding, accountability and sound financial management,

Recognizing the need for a scheme of financial contributions which is transparent and accessible to all Parties and Signatories, as well as to other States and organizations wishing to contribute,

Believing that some non-State entities such as charitable foundations may be interested in contributing financially to the activities under the work programme and should be encouraged to do so,

Recognizing that the interim voluntary scheme has raised significant levels of funding,

Noting that the distribution of the burden has been far from equitable, with a number of Parties and Signatories failing to contribute at all,

Believing that only a firm commitment by all Parties to contribute towards the costs of the work programme will ensure that the core costs are covered and that the distribution of the burden is equitable,

Believing also that the financial arrangements in place under the Convention will need to be kept under periodic review by the Meeting of the Parties to ensure that they continue to meet the goals of stability, predictability and a fair sharing of the burden,

1. *Decides* to extend the interim voluntary scheme of contributions established under decision II/6 for a further intersessional period aimed at covering the costs of activities under the work programme that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget, based on the following principles:

(a) The Parties and Signatories should collectively ensure that, as a minimum, the costs of the core activities of the work programme that are not covered by the United Nations regular budget are covered through the scheme, and should endeavour to ensure that non-core costs are covered;

(b) No Party or Signatory is expected to contribute less than 200 United States dollars;

(c) Contributions may be made in cash or in kind;

(d) Contributions in cash should be made through the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Trust Fund for Local Technical Cooperation (Aarhus Convention project);

(e) Contributions in cash to be used for activities taking place in a given calendar year should be made as early as possible and in any case no later than the end of that year;

(f) Each Party and Signatory should notify the secretariat at the beginning of each year of the amount that it will contribute for that year;

2. *Requests* Parties to contribute each year, in accordance with the scheme referred to in paragraph 1, towards covering the costs of the activities under the work programme for 2009–2011, as set out in annex I to decision III/9;
3. *Invites* Signatories, other interested States and organizations to contribute, in cash or in kind, towards covering the costs of the work programme;
4. *Encourages* Parties that have historically contributed more than their core contribution to maintain their previous levels of contribution;
5. *Also encourages* Parties and Signatories that have so far failed to contribute, or have contributed to a disproportionately small extent by comparison with their economic status, to increase their contributions during the current and future budget cycles, and requests the Bureau to liaise with such Parties and Signatories where appropriate concerning the achievement of this goal;
6. *Requests* the secretariat, in accordance with the financial rules of the United Nations, to monitor the expenditure of the funds and to prepare annual reports for review by the Working Group of the Parties in order to ensure that the level of contributions matches the level of funding needed for the implementation of the work programme;
7. *Also requests* the Working Group of the Parties to consider, in the light of these annual reports, whether changes would be required to the content or time frame of the work programme in the event that the level of actual and/or pledged contributions does not match the level of funding needed;
8. *Further requests* the secretariat to prepare a comprehensive report for the fourth meeting of the Parties, including information on how much Parties and other participating States and organizations contributed to the budget of the Convention in cash and in kind, and on how the contributions were spent;
9. *Requests* the Working Group of the Parties to continue in-depth discussions on possible future schemes of financial arrangements that meet the goals of stability, predictability and equity, including schemes that combine elements of the two options presented to the Meeting of the Parties in document ECE/MP.PP/2008/L.9, and on the basis of such discussion, to make recommendations concerning one or more options for a scheme of financial arrangements with a view to their adoption at the fourth ordinary meeting of the Parties;
10. *Agrees* to review the operation of the scheme of financial arrangements at its fourth meeting, based on the input from the Working Group of the Parties.
